

# NATIONAL RECORDER.

Containing Essays upon subjects connected with Political Economy, Science, Literature, &c.; Papers read before the Agricultural Society of Philadelphia; a Record of passing Events; Selections from Foreign Magazines, &c. &c.

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## Miscellany.

### WOMAN.

“One hand  
Was threading lightly through her crisped locks,  
The other pressed her bosom—in her eye  
Virtue sate thron’d in sweetness—suddenly  
She rais’d her bright regards on me and smil’d;  
Then parting her luxurious lips, she spoke,  
And did confess herself a mere, mere woman.”

CINTHIA.

No one who has read Dryden’s Fables, can have forgotten the translation of that gallant bird the cock:

———“Mulier est hominis confusio.

Madam, the meaning of this Latin is  
That woman is to man his sovereign bliss”

This is the very type of human conduct. Men rail against women, call them *mutabile genus* with Horace, exclaim with Lord Byron, that “treachery is all their trust,” or with the “Gentleman who has left his Lodgings,” “that they are soon contented to follow the crowd;” yet in spite of all these objections, the influence of women remains about the same as it was when Antony lost the world for Cleopatra. Men still shut their eyes against conviction, and walk blindly to their fate—they rail against the faithlessness and the heartlessness of woman one day, and they marry the next—and thus they are reduced to the necessity of translating Latin, like Dryden’s feathered biped, or like Dominie Sampson, of addressing their ladies with “*Sceleratissima*, that is, good Mrs. Margaret; *impudentissima*, that is to say, excellent Mrs. Merri-lies.” We rather think that the testimony of these gentlemen cannot be relied upon: they are interested witnesses, and they are already evidently in two stories. From them, therefore, we must not inquire the character of woman. To whom then shall we rather resort? To the philosophers? They have always been jealous of women, who are their most powerful antagonists, overturning systems with a smile, and destroying the most perfect reason with a nod of the head, and *unphilosophising*

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even the soul of a stoic. Besides, all philosophers call women Xantippes, being deep commiserators of the fate of Socrates. Can any of our readers form an idea of a philosopher courting? The very notion is as preposterous as that of an abstract idea of a lord mayor in Martinus Scriblerus. If then it is so useless to consult the philosophers, shall we get a better answer from the poets? Here the partiality is as great on the other side. What oceans of adulation! There is not a single superlative word of excellence that the poets have not pressed into the service of their mistresses—but of the poets’ notions we shall say more anon. Ask the man of the world what he thinks on the subject. He pauses—and you see his head is running on settlements. When the poet calls his mistress heavenly-minded, the prudent worldling says she is a good match; and while the enraptured bard murmurs some impassioned words, about “the mind, the music breathing from her face,” our man of the mart is coolly calculating “£5000, 3 per cents now, and something more when the old fellow dies.”

Now which of these opinions shall we choose? We confess, for our own parts, we patronise the poet’s, both because we believe it to be nearer the truth, and because, even if it were not so, it is by far the pleasantest of the three. But let us be understood, before we commence our panegyric, for we foresee it will be such—let us be fully understood to speak of woman in the abstract; not of old women, nor cross women, nor foolish women, nor ugly women, nor blue stockings, nor pois-sardes, but of the ideal woman, such as the soul of Milton conceived, when he shadowed out the beautiful picture of his Eve. At the same time, we should be exceedingly chagrined if it were imagined that we intended any studied insult to the very respectable classes of females we have just mentioned. We have felt an affectionate veneration for several old ladies, and many a pleasant hour have we passed in their company. For his mother’s sake a man is

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bound to respect old ladies—at least, in our minds. Now, as to cross women, it is a very well known fact, that their attachment is frequently stronger than that of good humoured ones; and besides, it should be recollected that they contribute very much to a man's happiness, by exercising the valuable qualities of forbearance and resignation. Want of beauty, as a quality, only relates to young women; for it does not matter whether an old one be ugly or not—but this circumstance, which is so often considered a misfortune, is very frequently a blessing, as those who have read Mr. William Powell's Julietta, and Miss Burney's Camilla, feel perfectly convinced. Far be it therefore from us to speak with disrespect of a lady because her nose is not of seemly proportion, or because her complexion happens to be rather like that of a lawyer. As for the foolish ladies, we can only say, we feel as much regard for them as we can, and have no possible intention of offending them; we would, however, venture to make one remark, that if they happen to be pretty, they may possibly achieve a conquest if they will but hold their tongues; but many a strong impression made by a handsome set of features, has faded away at the utterance of a silly speech. Then, as to the blue stocking, or true literary lady—the *precieuse*—"a female who cares for no man, but boasts that her protectors are Titlepage, the publisher; Vamp, the bookseller; and Index, the printer:" as for her, it will perhaps be as prudent to hold a discreet silence, lest in the very next number of this very magazine, we should find two or three pages filled with avenging remarks.

We shall not at present enter into a formal refutation of all the calumnies, which man, in the lordliness and vanity of his heart, has poured forth against his fairer half; (but we do heartily wish that all such offenders may be brought to speedy and condign punishment, for which purpose we recommend a jury of matrons to be impannelled.) There is however one accusation which is really too unjust to be passed over in silence, and we shall therefore say a word or two on the subject of female constancy.

Fickleness has been an imputed female fault from the time of Horace, and long before, and the sentiment has been echoed by every *misogynistic* satirist.—"Thou art not false, but thou art fickle," is the lightest of their accusations. The charge, however, comes but badly from the

mouth of a man. What is the advice which a great philosopher, who "looked quite through the deeds of men," has given to his son. "Remember when thou wert a sucking child, that thou didst then love thy nurse, and that thou wert fond of her; after a while thou didst love thy dry nurse, and didst forget the other; after that, thou didst also despise her: so will it be with thee in thy liking in elder years; and therefore, though thou canst not forbear to love, yet forbear to link, and after a while thou shalt find an alteration in thyself, and see another far more pleasing than the first, second, or third love."—This is old, crafty Sir Walter Raleigh! How much truth and how much guile is there in this sentence! "And this is man's fidelity!"

It is strange that man should be so jealous of his superiority, as to endeavour to degrade the character of woman in order to exalt his own. It is only one mode of playing the tyrant—a part capable of being enacted in so many different shapes. The civilized man complains that they are talkative, jealous, narrow minded, and hence assumes a mastery—the Indian's reasoning is shorter—he makes them carry his burdens.

There is one mortal offence in women, for which they have been more than once, rated roundly by the satirists. "All women," says one of our malevolent old dramatists, "have six senses; that is seeing, hearing, tattling, smelling, touching, and the last and feminine sense, the *sense of speaking*." We feel rather inclined to suspect, that the lords and masters of this goodly creation would not be very well content to allow the last of these senses to be the exclusive privilege of their fair partners. So far indeed from such a concession, they have absolutely monopolized the power of *speaking* (*par excellence*) to the exclusion of those who they contend are so much their superiors in the exercise of it. Who ever heard of a lady *making a speech*? We certainly do not mean to contend from this that our ladies are *speechless*; but we do say it is unfair in a man to attend a public meeting, and tire his auditors to death with a speech of two hours length, filled with all the common places of all the common writers of the day, and then to return home and chide his daughter for pouring forth a gay ten minutes rattle in the overflowing gaiety of her youthful heart. While a man is talking stupid sense, you hear a woman uttering lively nonsense; and the latter com-



modity is infinitely more valuable in our opinion. On this subject, we may quote four of the best lines Dr. Darwin ever wrote:—

Hear the pretty ladies talk,  
Tittle-tattle, tittle-tattle,  
Like their pattens, when they walk,  
Piddle-paddle, piddle paddle.

There are very few men that know how to converse. You see many a man like Addison, who can draw on his banker for 1000*l.* but who has not nine pence in ready cash, to contribute as his share in conversation. Women, on the contrary, are always both ready and willing to speak.—Women have a most graceful way of talking about nothing, which men, in their wisdom, esteem beneath their powers.—The French ladies are pre-eminent in this art; and after them the Irish ladies hold the most distinguished place. It is absolutely marvellous to listen to two sisters, who have been parted for three weeks, edifying each other with their mutual stores of intelligence, of which their brothers would have disburdened themselves in one-tenth of the time.

The way in which women employ their time has always appeared to us most unaccountable. We ourselves, have in general a good deal to do—poring over crabbed books all the morning—writing sonnets to our mistress' eyebrow—cunningly making notes for a sly article in the *New Monthly*—playing chess and tennis—and hugging ourselves over the last new novel—yet, in spite of all these very multifarious occupations, we must confess it, there is many an hour that lies heavy on our hands, and neither by walking or reading, writing or riding, can we contrive to fill up all the little interstices of our life, so as completely to exclude that most villanous fiend ennui. But a lady—(we entreat our male readers for a moment to raise their eyes from our pages, and consult their wife, or their sister, or their first cousin, or any other lady who may perchance be sitting next them,) a lady who sits in the house all day—who, out of the whole four and twenty hours, is the absolute mistress of sixteen of them, and who has no imperative duties to perform that can possibly exact her attention for one-eighth of that period—that lady will tell you, that the day is so very short, that she actually has not half time enough to do all she intends, and that she cannot recollect an hour which has not passed with too great rapidity. We have put this question to a great variety of our fair

readers, and we have invariably received the same answer from all of them.

In estimating the virtues of our fair countrywomen, we should perhaps feel inclined to award the palm of excellence, to those who move in the higher ranks of our middle classes, possessing as they do, all the polish which the first society can confer, with that *utility* of character, which the daughters of our nobility can seldom have the opportunity of acquiring. We do not intend to enter into a dissertation on the accomplishments and cultivation of the female mind at the present day—which may probably save our readers' patience and our own fingers—else could we show how *this* lady excels in mathematics, and how *that* one is deeply versed in political economy—in short, how much our country owes to the efforts of its numerous authoresses. Probably, however, in some future number, we may attempt to appreciate the merits of the “living poetesses of England.”

[*New Monthly Mag.*

#### BROWN'S NORTHERN COURTS.

Extract from the Eclectic Review.

The second division of this work relates to Sweden, and contains, together with some preliminary illustrations of the history of different political parties, the history of the third and fourth monarchs of the name and line of Gustavus. The former is described as polished and brilliant, but tainted with the most degrading and revolting vices: the latter is expressly affirmed to have been the son, not of the king, but of his friend count Muncke, to whom the queen, after having been secretly divorced by Gustavus, was clandestinely, but regularly espoused. Sweden required a sovereign of high and consistent character. Her poverty demanded the severest economy; and the irritable spirit of her population was to be calmed and repressed only by a firm, judicious, and yet conciliatory conduct. In none of these points was Gustavus the Third equal to the severe requisitions of his exalted and difficult office: he exasperated his nobility without obtaining the attachment of his people, and in the full possession of health and outward prosperity, he fell by the pistol of Ankarsstrom. The scene which immediately succeeded the assassination, is portrayed by Mr. Brown in one of the finest pieces of description that we recollect to have read!

“On his way from his palace to the opera house a few hours before, Gustavus



stepped lightly down the broad flights of granite to the vestibule below. He was now carried slowly back, stretched on a litter borne on the shoulders of grenadiers, whose slightest motion gave him inexpressible pain. Like the palace itself, the grand staircase is of stupendous dimensions. The massive balustrades are composed of polished marble; the broad steps of hewn granite; and the ornaments of colossal proportions, finely drawn and executed, are in strict conformity to the vast and beautiful outline of this grand edifice. The king's unwieldy state coach, with a triple row of guards on either side, might apparently have ascended. Although the portals were closed as soon as the king had entered, and none but courtiers and soldiers admitted, and even those not without selection, the whole of the colossal stairs were crowded to excess. Not a few of the ministers were clad in state dresses; and most of the courtiers and household officers still had on the fanciful robes worn at the fatal masquerade. This great diversity of splendid costume, the melancholy state of the king, stretched on the bier, lying on his side, his pale face resting on his right hand, his features expressive of pain subdued by fortitude, the varied countenances of the surrounding throng, wherein grief, consternation and dismay were forcibly depicted; the blaze of numerous torches and flambeaux borne aloft by the military; the glitter of burnished helmets, embroidered and spangled robes, mixed with the flashes of drawn sabres and fixed bayonets; the strong and condensed light thrown on the king's figure, countenance, litter and surrounding group; the deep dark masses of shade that seemed to flitter high above and far below the principal group, and the occasional illumination of the vast and magnificent outline of the structure, formed, on the whole, a spectacle more grand, impressive and picturesque, than any state or theatrical procession, in the arrangement of which the tasteful Gustavus had ever been engaged. In the midst of excruciating agonies his eyes lost not their brilliancy, and his finely expressive features displayed the triumph of fortitude over pain. Terrible and sudden as was this disaster, it did not deprive him of self possession; he seemed more affected by the tears that trickled down the hard yet softened features of the veterans who had fought by his side, than by the wound that too probably would soon end his life. As the bearers of the royal litter ascended from flight to

flight he raised his head evidently to obtain a better view of the grand spectacle of which he formed the central and principal object. When he arrived at the grand gallery, level with the state apartments, he made a sign with his hand that the bearers should halt, and looking wistfully around him, he said to Baron Armfelt (who wept and sobbed aloud,) "how strange it is I should rush upon my fate, after the recent warnings I had received! My mind forboded evil; I went reluctantly, impelled as it were by an invisible hand!—I am fully persuaded, when a man's hour is come, it is in vain he strives to elude it!" After a short pause, he continued, "perhaps my hour is not yet arrived; I would willingly live, but am not afraid to die. If I survive, I may yet trip down these steps again; and if I die—why then, inclosed in my coffin, my next descent will be on my road to the Gustavian mausoleum in Riddanholm church." Gustavus spoke slowly, and in a low tone of voice. The pause was awful: every one seemed anxious in the extreme to catch a view of his person, or even the most distant murmur of his voice, and not a tearless eye was to be seen. Several of the principal characters, holding a torch in their left hand, threw their cloaks over their face with their right to conceal their excessive emotion. Gustavus was perhaps the most collected of the motley throng; and as soon as the violence of feeling had a little subsided, he gave the signal to proceed. The lofty folding doors of the grand saloon were then thrown open, which were closed as soon as the principal persons had passed within, and the mournful cavalcade proceeded through the magnificent suite of state apartments to the royal bedchamber, where the litter was gently rested, and the king carefully lifted to the couch, whence he rose no more!"

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#### WHITEFIELD'S FIELD PREACHING.

*From Southey's Wesley.*

"All the churches being now shut, and, as he says, if open, not able to contain half that came to hear, he went again to Kingswood: his second audience consisted of some two thousand persons, his third from four to five thousand, and they went on increasing to ten, fourteen, twenty thousand. 'The sun shone very bright,' he says, 'and the people standing in such an awful manner round the



mount, in the profoundest silence, filled me with a holy admiration. Blessed be God for such a plentiful harvest. Lord, do thou send forth more labourers into thy harvest.' On another occasion he says, 'The trees and hedges were full. All was hush when I began: the sun shone bright, and God enabled me to preach for an hour with great power, and so loud, that all, I was told, could hear me. Blessed be God, Mr. — spoke right; *the fire is kindled in the country!*' 'To behold such crowds standing together in such an awful silence, and to hear the echo of their singing run from one end of them to the other, was very solemn and striking. How infinitely more solemn and striking will the general assembly of the spirits of just men made perfect be, when they join in singing the song of Moses and the Lamb in heaven!' Yet he says, 'As the scene was new, and I had just begun to be an extempore preacher, it often occasioned many inward conflicts. Sometimes, when twenty thousand people were before me, I had not, in my own apprehension, a word to say either to God or them. But I never was totally deserted: and frequently (for to deny it would be lying against God) so assisted, that I knew by happy experience what our Lord meant by saying, *out of his belly shall flow rivers of living waters.*' The deep silence of his rude auditors was the first proof that he had impressed them; and it may well be imagined how greatly the consciousness and confidence of his own powers must have been increased, when, as he says, he saw the white gutters made by the tears which plentifully fell down their black cheeks—black as they came out of their coal-pits. 'The open firmament above me,' says he, 'the prospect of the adjacent fields, with the sight of thousands and thousands, some in coaches, some on horseback, and some in the trees, and at times all affected and drenched in tears together; to which sometimes was added the solemnity of the approaching evening, was almost too much for, and quite overcame me.' "

WHALING.

*From Scoresby's Account of the Arctic Regions.*

While the Resolution navigated an open lake of water, in the 81st degree of north latitude, during a keen frost and strong

north wind, on the 2d of June, 1806, a whale appeared, and a boat put off in pursuit. On its second visit to the surface of the sea, it was harpooned. A convulsive heave of the tail, which succeeded the wound, struck the boat at the stern; and by its reaction, projected the boat steerer overboard. As the line in a moment dragged the boat beyond his reach, the crew threw some of their oars towards him for his support, one of which he fortunately seized. The ship and boats being at a considerable distance, and the fast-boat being rapidly drawn away from him, the harpooner cut the line, with the view of rescuing him from his dangerous situation. But no sooner was this act performed, than to their extreme mortification they discovered, that in consequence of some oars being thrown towards their floating comrade, and others being broken or unshipped by the blow from the fish, one oar only remained; with which, owing to the force of the wind, they tried in vain to approach him. A considerable period elapsed, before any boat from the ship could afford him assistance, though the men strained every nerve for the purpose. At length, when they reached him, he was found with his arms stretched over an oar, almost deprived of sensation. On his arrival at the ship, he was in a deplorable condition. His clothes were frozen like mail, and his hair constituted a helmet of ice. He was immediately conveyed into the cabin, his clothes taken off, his limbs and body dried and well rubbed, and a cordial administered to him, which he drank. A dry shirt and stockings were then put upon him, and he was laid in the captain's bed. After a few hours sleep he awoke, and appeared considerably restored, but complained of a painful sensation of cold. He was therefore, removed to his own birth, and one of his messmates ordered to lie on each side of him, whereby the diminished circulation of the blood was accelerated, and the animal heat restored. The shock on his constitution, however, was greater than was anticipated. He recovered in the course of a few days, so as to be able to engage in his ordinary pursuits; but many months elapsed before his countenance exhibited its wonted appearance of health.

*The more interesting Acts of the last Session of Congress.*

To provide for paying to the state of Illinois three per cent. of the nett proceeds



arising from the sale of the public lands within the same.

Making a partial appropriation for the military service of the United States for the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one.

To incorporate the Columbian College in the District of Columbia.

To extend the time for locating Virginia military land warrants, and returning surveys thereof to the general land office.

To reduce and fix the military peace establishment of the United states.

Resolution providing for the admission of the state of Missouri into the union on a certain condition.

An act for the relief of the purchasers of public lands prior to the first day of July, 1820.

Extending the time for issuing and locating military land warrants to officers and soldiers of the revolutionary army.

Confirming the location of the seat of government of the state of Illinois, and for other purposes.

Further to regulate the entry of merchandise imported into the United States from any adjacent territory.

For the relief of the family of the late Oliver Hazard Perry, esq.

To release French ships and vessels, entering the ports of the United States prior to the 30th of September, 1820, from the operation of the act, entitled, "An act to impose a new tonnage duty on French ships and vessels, and for other purposes."

Making appropriations for the support of government for the year 1821.

Resolution authorizing the President of the United States to cause astronomical observations to be made to ascertain the longitude of the capitol in the city of Washington, from some known meridian in Europe.

Making appropriations for the public buildings.

Authorizing the secretary of the treasury of the United States to sell and convey a certain tract of land in Northumberland county, in the state of Virginia.

To amend the act, entitled "An act to provide for taking the fourth census, or enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States, and for other purposes."

Resolution providing for jails in certain cases, for the safe custody of persons committed under the authority of the United States.

An act to extend the time for unloading

vessels arriving from foreign ports in certain cases.

To authorize the collectors of customs to pay debentures issued on the exportation of loaf sugar and spirits distilled from molasses.

Making appropriations for the support of the navy of the United States for the year 1821.

To authorize the building of light-houses therein mentioned, and for other purposes.

To regulate the location of land warrants, and the issuing of patents in certain cases.

Establishing the salaries of the commissioners and agents appointed under the treaty of Ghent.

To authorize the President of the United States, to borrow a sum not exceeding five millions of dollars.

To continue in force an act entitled "An act regulating the currency within the United States of the gold coins of Great Britain, France, Portugal, and Spain," passed on the twenty-ninth day of April, 1816, so far as the same relates to the crowns and five franc pieces of France.

For carrying into execution the treaty between the United States and Spain, concluded at Washington on the 22d February, 1819.

Making appropriations for the military service of the United States for the year 1821.

To continue in force for a further time an act entitled "An act for establishing trading houses with the Indian tribes."

To amend an act, entitled "An act for regulating process in the courts of the United States."

To amend the act entitled "An act for the gradual increase of the navy of the United States."

#### TREATIES.

Treaty of amity, settlement, and limits, between the United States of America and his Catholic Majesty.

Treaty with the Wea tribe of Indians.

Treaty with the Kickapoo tribe of Indians.

Convention with the Kickapoo tribe of Indians of the Vermilion.

Treaty with the Choctaw nation of Indians.

Treaty with the Creek nation of Indians.

Treaty with the Chippewa tribe of Indians.



*From Silliman's Journal of Science and Arts.*

#### BONES OF THE RATTLE SNAKE.

Some curious facts respecting the bones of the Rattle Snake; communicated by professor Jacob Green, in a letter to the editor, dated Princeton, Dec. 9, 1820.

About the year 1748, some labourers in working a quarry in this neighbourhood for the stone with which our college is built, discovered a small cavern, which contained the entire skeletons of an immense number of the *rattle snake* (*Crotalus*). The bones were in such quantities as to require two or three carts for their removal. There can, I think, be but little doubt, that this cavern had once a small opening which was afterwards closed by the accidental fall of a stone, or some other impediment. This cave has probably been the winter abode of the rattle snake for years, where many have died through age, and others in consequence of the circumstance just mentioned. Mr. Humboldt, in the third volume of his *Personal Narrative*, hints at an occurrence somewhat similar to the above. "I had visited the caverns of the Hartz, those of Franconia, and the beautiful grotto of Treshemienshiz, in the Carpathian mountains, which are vast cemeteries of bones of tigers, hyenas and bears, as large as our horses." Bakewell, in his *Geology*, has an account of the entire skeleton of an elephant of immense size, discovered in Derbyshire, in a cavernous rock composed of *marine* animals. He supposes the cavern to have been open, and afterwards closed by the deposition of calcareous earth, forming stalactites; instances of which are common in Derbyshire. "Into this cavern I conceive, (says he) the animal had retired to die, at a period long after the existence of the marine animals which are imbedded in the surrounding rock."

The discovery of the organic remains of the rattle snake in our neighbourhood, may serve as an additional caution to geologists, not to form theories from isolated facts; and that if the bones of animals similar to those which now inhabit our earth are discovered, with reliques peculiar to what we now suppose to be ancient strata, a careful examination of all the circumstances will sometimes illustrate the anomaly.

The stones of which our college is built, are argillite and hornblende, taken from various quarries in the neighbourhood. In which of these the above remains were discovered I am unable to state, but most probably they were in the argillite.

Within the memory of some of the old

inhabitants of our town, rattle snakes were common in this vicinity; but as in other places, they have retired as the population has increased, to more uncultivated regions. There is a popular story among them, that this reptile always retired to his winter quarters before the leaves of the white ash, (*Fraxinus discolor*) began to fall—the leaf of this tree being peculiarly obnoxious to him. I am aware that stories of this kind are not entitled to much credit, and therefore do not intend to add the leaves of the white ash to the list of antidotes to the bite of the rattle snake, but merely state the circumstance to excite further observation.

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#### HALL'S JOURNAL OF JURISPRUDENCE.

*No. 1. Price \$5 annually.*

We have just read the first number of the *Journal of Jurisprudence*, by J. E. HALL, esq., and we think the publishers, Messrs. Carey and Son, deserve extensive support. Our personal knowledge of Mr. Hall during several years residence in Baltimore, and our sincere wish for his success in the further prosecution of a work, which we consider him to be well qualified to render useful to the public, induce us to request the attention of our readers to a more particular notice of it.

It is somewhat surprising that while we are amply supplied with religious journals of every denomination; while the physician, the chemist, the mineralogist, the artist, and the farmer, all have magazines, for the purpose of diffusing prompt information respecting their various pursuits, only two attempts have been made to promote the knowledge of English and American jurisprudence in this way. The first was in England, by Morgan & Williams, who published two or three volumes in 1803, and then stopped. Mr. Hall made a similar attempt in 1808, in this city, on a more original plan. The former gentlemen confined themselves to reports of decisions, abstracts of acts of parliament and reprints of old pamphlets; but the American editor, animated by a loftier ambition, entered on the field of original disquisition. The *American Law Journal* contains many valuable translations from foreign and ancient jurists, lives of eminent judges and lawyers, criticisms on law books, besides much practical information on those laws of states which are of general importance, particularly those



which relate to negotiable paper, to the manner of executing legal instruments, the insolvent laws, and those which regulate attachments, &c. If the Law Journal possessed no other merit than that of having given to the world the discussions on the Batture by Messrs. Jefferson, Livingston and Duponceau, the translation of Bynkershoek, and a part of the Consolate del Mare, it would be entitled to the warmest support of the American bar. The discussions contain a mass of law learning, and display an acuteness, elegance and wit, which entitle them to be placed by the side of the best forensic papers of any age, while the version of Bynkershoek, has transformed a learned foreigner into an American law classic.

Our Law Journal surpasses the English, not only in the value, but also in the number of its volumes. The present work is a continuation of Mr. Hall's original work, under a new title, with some slight modification of the plan, which will certainly enhance its value. We allude to the editor's promise to give a digest of every new reporter, which will be a vast convenience to lawyers at a distance from libraries.

With a brief survey of the contents of this number we shall conclude.

The first article is a discourse on the rite of swearing on the evangelists, which was delivered before the governor and council of S. Carolina, upwards of a century ago, by Charles J. Trott, "upon account of Mr. G. Smith, who being admitted a member of council, refused to take the oaths any other way than by that of holding up his hand." "The argument," as the editor very justly remarks, "is uncharitable"—"is founded in error; and, very happily for us, has long been exploded by better hearts and better heads." But, as a proof of the state of learning in those days, it is a very curious and interesting document; every position is bolstered up by a profusion of quotations from the Hebrew, Greek and Latin, which are enough to startle a modern lawyer. Mr. Hall's notes have the double merit of being brief and to the purpose.

The case of Jonathan Robins furnishes the second article. It is curious that the decision in this important case which was bruited from one end of the continent to the other, never was published until the editor of this journal brought it to light. This shows the necessity of such a work as the Law Journal, as a depository of

scarce documents of this description, for which no other place in a professional library can well be assigned.

Next follows the trial of William Penn—a curious case, illustrating the firmness of the venerable proprietary, and the immense importance of an independent jury.

The "Observations on Consuls" appear to be perfectly just. No author's name is added to them, but they are left to take their fate.

The *Commonwealth vs. Young*, p. 47, is an important case on the conflicting rights of the general and state governments. The former proprietor of Pennsylvania had given a lot of ground to the United States, in fee simple, upon which barracks had been erected—subsequently Congress ordered the ground to be sold by public outcry. But as Pennsylvania had never ceded the jurisdiction, the manner of the sale was considered as an interference with the exclusive right of the regular auctioneer appointed by the governor—the court being of opinion, that the United States can acquire land in sovereignty, in no other manner than that which is prescribed by the constitution.

The "Judicial Memoranda in the History of Pennsylvania," abounds with curious information.

The case from Louisiana, in which it is decided, that aliens can hold lands in that state, contains an argument by Mr. Workman, which is eloquent and learned, to a degree, far beyond what we are accustomed to find in our law books.

The decisions in Franklin county, by Judge Smith, are characterized by sound law learning and careful research. Although they will be of little use elsewhere, yet in Pennsylvania they must be valuable, as expositions of the acts of assembly; and the early publication of such decisions ought to be encouraged by the legislature, as it is well known, that adjudications under the statutes very rarely coincide where the tribunals are numerous. To young students they would be useful as *readings on the statutes*.

The case from the English court of chancery relates to the law of awards; but is not so well argued as it would have been in the supreme courts of Pennsylvania, New York or Massachusetts.

The last article is a digest of Broderip and Bingham's Reports, which gives us the English cases as late as February, 1820. This may be regarded as the first part of that section of Mr. Hall's work in



which the readers were promised an *annual digest of all the English and American reports*. It must be confessed that such a digest, if executed with even tolerable fidelity, would be of great advantage to the bar, as it would give them early intelligence of important decisions, and prevent the expense of purchasing all the books that are advertised. There are two ways in which such a digest may be formed: first, by throwing all the reports of a definite time, (say a year) into one mass; and secondly by giving a separate synopsis of each book. The objections to the first mode are, that it might not always be practicable to procure all the books in season, and if they were procured, as the courts in which the decisions take place are in different countries, and in various states, all having different jurisdictions, each peculiar to itself, the syllabus of every case would require a special designation of the court, which in the aggregate, might create infinite confusion in the mind of the reader. We prefer the second mode, which appears to have been the choice of the editor on the present occasion. When we open his volume, and find a digest of the decisions in the *English* court of common pleas, we are at once prepared to enter on the perusal, with the maxims of Blackstone, &c. before us—and we consider every thing with reference to such authorities. If the reader were to find a volume of *Johnson*, or *Harris & McHenry*, he knows that he is reading what has been decided to be law in a sister state; while a digest of *Wheaton* would prepare him to meditate on the law of the land.

It is remarked by the editor, in a note, on the digest of *Broderip & Bingham*, that “this volume does not contain a single case worthy of republication in this country.” This volume sells for twelve dollars in the United States; and how many American lawyers have sent for it, merely because it *might* contain something useful? It is well known, among those who have been in the habit of importing the modern English reporters, that they contain very little which is of any importance to us. The reason of this is obvious to professional men. All that is useful in the reports of a single year, stripped of the liberal margin and large type, which the English booksellers employ, and exhibited in a broad compact *solid* page, like that of the journal of jurisprudence, could be comprised in one number of that work. Some may imagine, that the journal will not be able to take in these cases without retrench-

ing from other departments of the work. We have not sufficiently examined the matter, to enable us to decide how far this objection is just; but thus much may be safely averred, that if the public demand should warrant the extension of the journal, it can easily be enlarged to two or three volumes annually; and the profession would be gainers in the economy of the work, and the advantages which it would possess, of exhibiting every thing in a uniform view. [*Balt. Fed. Gaz.*]

#### *Method of preserving Flour in the Saxon Magazines.*

It is highly pleasing to the reflecting mind and the cultivator of science, to remark the intimate connexion that subsists between its different branches.—Thus a discovery is rarely made in one department, without extending its benefits to some other with which it would seem at first to have no relation. Thus too in a work on a particular subject, we frequently meet with information or at least hints tending to illustrate others of a totally different nature.

Your readers will doubtless recollect the “Narrative of the Battle of Leipzig,” which exhibited so lively a picture of that gigantic conflict, and was published soon after its occurrence. A passage in that work intimated that in Saxony a method is practised by which flour and meal may be preserved without injury for twenty or thirty years. Four thousand casks which had been thus laid up, at Leipzig for many years, were consumed by the French in 1813. The precise length of time which it had been deposited in the magazine is not mentioned; but we are told that it had been purchased by the magistrates of Leipzig as a store against famine; that it had been left untouched even in the disastrous year 1806; and that it would have kept twenty years longer without spoiling.

This practical illustration of the utility of such a method of preserving the produce of plentiful seasons, was not overlooked by our board of agriculture. The attention of lord Carrington, the then president, and of the late venerable secretary, Arthur Young, was strongly called by the passage in question to this subject; and the latter, by his lordship’s direction, caused inquiry to be made at Leipzig, to ascertain the process by which so desirable an object was accomplished.



I am not aware that the result of this inquiry was ever made public; the general interest attached to it will therefore, no doubt, obtain insertion in your pages for a translation of the directions transmitted from Germany in reply. This document is as follows:

When the flour is destined to be kept a long time in casks, the corn must be perfectly dry when ground. It must be left for a year after it is ground, upon the floor of a well ventilated place, and turned over twice a week during the first half year, and once a week in the second. At the expiration of twelve months it may be packed, having been previously sifted, and it must be pressed down as close as possible; which operation is performed by men provided with clean leather stockings, who trample upon it in the cask, and use stampers to assist them. The magazine casks in Saxony contain each 4 cwt. 10 lbs. neat weight; and the flour is trodden so close, that on opening the cask it is found to form a mass which seems to be as hard as stone.

[*Ackerman's Repository.*]

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## Agriculture.

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FROM THE AMERICAN FARMER.

### CHEESE MAKING.

Sir—When I commenced farming, now more than twenty years since, I determined to have the cheese used on the farm, made upon it, and set about inquiring of the best dairy men and women for their process. I read all the books to be had on the subject, particularly Anderson's *Rural Economy* containing his account of cheese-making in the different counties in England, which I borrowed, as it was not then to be purchased in this country. And thus prepared, I set about the business, with a dairy woman more ignorant of the theory than myself. I had felt from my boyhood, a great aversion to honey comb, or eyelet hole cheese; and I determined not to have any with that defect, not then knowing its principal cause; the use of too much rennet, which operates like too much yeast in bread, destroying the flavour, and producing an extra fermentation. To avoid this evil I applied such power in pressing the cheese, that I absolutely expressed not only the whey, but every particle that constituted richness, and spoiled the produce of the milk of six cows during the cheese making season of one year. Mr. P—,

joined the rest of my friends in laughing heartily at my blunders—it did not however discourage me, and I continued my exertions a year or two longer, when I was completely successful, and my cheese was pronounced by the best judges equal to any made in this or any other country.—Several gentlemen, all of whom had travelled, and were well acquainted with the cheese made here and in Europe, pronounced in favour of my Brighton cheese. After I had discovered the cause of my first year's mistake, and had established myself with my friends and acquaintance, I determined to ascertain the exact proportions of every ingredient, and describe the manner of performing the whole process, that my dairy women might take the management and continue to make cheese of the most approved quality. This was done in 1807, with a cheese made in the common form, and in 1811 with a pine apple cheese—they both proved of an excellent quality, and were thought fully equal to any that had been made on the farm. Marshal states "that the pine apple cheese is pressed by its own weight;" but I could not succeed without applying a weight, and using a mould; the meshes of the net were pressed into the curd when it was in the mould, and the cheese when dry, had all the appearance of the handsomest imported pine apple shaped cheese. My dairy memorandas were used on the farm of my late father, and the cheese proved excellent.

Mr. L— has had cheese made by them of which he is not a little proud; I ate some of his cheese, and thought the best dairy woman in our country would have pronounced it of the first quality.—Governor G—, from the recommendation of Mr. L—, sent for a copy from my farm dairy the last season, but the result of his experiment I have not yet heard. Accompanying this, you have the extracts made by my niece, who (not a little prejudiced perhaps) says her uncle's cheese is better than any she has met with—and when I expressed some doubts of my memoranda, being such as I ought to send to you, she insisted that go they must, and although not very well, she would make the extracts, and set up a claim to have her way, as she assisted when a little girl, and made the notes for my pine apple cheese. *They were made plain and minute so as to be easily understood—and if they prove of any use, I shall be glad.*

Very respectfully, your's, &c.

P\*\*\*\*\*



*Pine Apple Cheese.*

Brighton, Sept. 27th, 1811.

One quart of cream, from last night's milk, was put to twenty quarts new milk from cows this morning, warmed in a *clean brass kettle*, to 95 degrees by Fahrenheit's thermometer,\* then strained into a cheese tub. One table spoonful of strong rennet, and a piece of Spanish annetto the size of a large pea, were then put into the tub.—After it had stood half an hour, the curd was well formed; it was then crossed with a wooden knife. Half an hour after, the curd was broken gently by hand, and in half an hour more was *wheyed off*, as it is termed. The curd appeared well—the whey thin and of a greenish colour, which is always desirable. The curd was then scalded in whey. Two hours after we put into the curd, three table spoonfuls of fine salt, and one tea spoonful of saltpetre.—The curd was next put into a bag with the net outside, and then placed in the mould, the form of which is nearly that of an inverted cone. The screw press was now applied, gently at first, and increased through the day. At eight o'clock in the evening, the cheese was taken out of the mould, the net and bag taken off, the net then put next to the cheese, and the bag outside; the cheese thus covered was put into the mould again, and pressed with increased force until next day at 12 o'clock—it was then taken out, and was found to have been well pressed; the meshes of the net had made a deep and handsome impression. The cheese was then hung up in the cheese room, in the net, but without the bag. Ten days afterwards, the net was taken off—the cheese wiped every day for six weeks, and rubbed with the following preparation:

Salt pork tried out, and melted butter of equal parts. A common saucer full when melted, to be browned a little over the fire, then strained perfectly clear, and a piece of Spanish annetto added, the size of a large pea or common bean, which must be dissolved and properly stirred in the fat, and when cool it will be fit for use.

The above mentioned pine apple cheese was cut December, 22d, 1813—it weighed six pounds and one quarter, and connoisseurs pronounced it to be of the first quality. Frequently, and usually it passed for an English cheese, and was highly commended as such.

This cheese is also called "cream cheese," and it is difficult to make one more rich.

\* The warmth of milk directly from the cow.

*Two Meal Cheese—Dairy Memoranda.*

Brighton, Sept. 27th, 1807.

The cream was taken this morning from the milk of last night, and this morning's milk added to the milk just skimmed, making together five and one half gallons, which was then strained into a clean brass kettle, and warmed to 95 degrees by Fahrenheit's thermometer; it was then put into the cheese tub—a piece of rennet of the usual thickness, one inch and one quarter square—one pennyweight fourteen grains of saltpetre, (which when fine, filled the bowl of a common tea spoon level with the top) and one grain and a half of Spanish annetto, (a piece the size of a common pea), were put into the milk; which stood an half hour, till the curd rose and was fit for crossing, when it was crossed with a wooden knife, used for that purpose. It was then left twenty-five minutes longer, when the whey was separated from the curd, and it was broken up by hand. After it had settled, the whey was taken off gradually—the curd was then scalded in whey, after which it was chopped quite fine, and two table spoonfuls of fine salt sprinkled over it. And it was then put into the cheese hoop, and pressed very gradually at first; but as soon as the rind had formed, the power of the press was increased, by applying heavier weights to the lever. This cheese when taken from the press was put in the cheese room, turned every day, wiped clean, and once every week, for six weeks, rubbed with fresh butter.

It was cut in the month of January, 1808, and proved very good.

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*Variety.*

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## HEAVEN.

The wise and gentle Tillotson has observed, that we shall have two wonders in heaven; the one, how many come to be absent whom we expected to find there; the other, how many are there whom we had no hope of meeting.

## DR. COKE.

A captain in the navy, from whom we obtained a subscription, calling upon an acquaintance of Coke's the same morning, said: "Do you know any thing of a little fellow who calls himself Dr. Coke, and who is going about begging money for missionaries to be sent among the slaves?" "I know him well," was the reply. "He



seems," rejoined the captain, "to be a heavenly minded little devil. He coaxed me out of two guineas this morning."

[*Drew's Life of Dr. Coke.*]

#### LAY PREACHERS.

The question whether, in the ancient church, laymen were ever allowed by authority to make sermons to the people, is investigated by Bingham with his usual erudition. "That they did it in a private way, as catechists, in their catechetical schools, at Alexandria and other places, there is no question. For Origen read lectures in the catechetical school of Alexandria, before he was in orders, by the appointment of Demetrius; and St. Jerome says, there was a long succession of famous men in that school, who were called ecclesiastical doctors on that account. But this was a different thing from their public preaching in the church. Yet in some cases a special commission was given to a layman to preach, and then he might do it by the authority of the bishop's commission for that time. Thus Eusebius says, Origen was approved by Alexander, bishop of Jerusalem, and Theotistus of Cæsarea, to preach and expound the scriptures publicly in the church, when he was only a layman. And when Demetrius of Alexandria made a remonstrance against this, as an innovation that had never been seen or heard of before, that a layman should preach to the people in the presence of bishops, Alexander replied in a letter, and told him he was much mistaken; for it was an usual thing in many places, where men were well qualified to edify the brethren, for bishops to entreat them to preach to the people."

[*Antiquities of the Christian Church.*]

#### ASSURANCE.

There is a good story of assurance in Belknap's History of New Hampshire. "A certain captain, John Underhill, in the days of Puritanism, affirmed, that having long lain under a spirit of bondage, he could get no assurance; till at length, as he was taking a pipe of tobacco, the spirit set home upon him an absolute promise of free grace, with such assurance and joy, that he had never since doubted of his good estate, neither should he, whatever sins he might fall into. And he endeavoured to prove, 'that as the Lord was pleased to convert Saul while he was persecuting, so he might manifest himself to him while making a moderate use of the

good creature tobacco!' This was one of the things for which he was questioned and censured by the elders at Boston."

"Another," says South, "flatters himself, that he has lived in full assurance of his salvation for ten or twenty, or perhaps, thirty years; that is, in other words, the man has been ignorant and confident very long." [Southey's *Wesley*.]

#### HISTORY OF MANNERS.

To inform the world, that in the 16th century, bishops only were permitted the use of silk; that princes and princesses only had the prerogative of wearing scarlet clothes either of silk or of wool; and that only princes and bishops had a right to wear shoes made of silk; such anecdotes would appear trivial in the hands of a mere antiquary; but they become important when touched by a philosophical historian.

#### PRUDENCE.

Roche foucault observes, "The art of setting off moderate qualifications, steals esteem; and often gives more reputation than real merit." His commentator gives, on this observation, the following character from Tacitus: "Poppæus Sabinus, of moderate birth, obtained the consulship, and the honour of a triumph; and governed, for four and twenty years, the greatest provinces, without any extraordinary merit; being just capable of his employments, and in no manner above them."

#### CHARACTERS ILLUSTRATED.

The science of human nature, like the science of physics, was never perfected till vague theory was rejected for certain experiment. An Addison and a Bruyere accompany their reflections by characters; an anecdote in their hands informs us better than a whole essay of Seneca. Opinions are fallible, but not examples.

A writer elegantly declaims against the vanity of a poet; but when he judiciously gives a few of the innumerable instances of poetical vanity, we shall comprehend him with more certainty, and follow his reflections with the firm conviction of truth. Would he inform us, that innumerable follies prevail in very great minds? Every opinion is disputable. But we become persuaded of its truth, when he reminds us, that sir Robert Walpole, a great minister, was ambitious of being a man of gallantry; and that another great minister, cardinal Richelieu, was not less ambitious of being distinguished as a poet; while



the one was as awkward in his compliments, as the other in his verses. In a word, the wise Elizabeth was a coquette. The ambitious Charles V. terminated his career by watchmaking. Racine believed himself a politician.

PROPHETS AT HOME.

There is a certain distance at which writings, as well as men, should be placed, in order to command our attention and respect. We do not easily allow a title to instruct or to amuse the public, in our neighbour, with whom we have been accustomed to compare our own abilities. Hence the fastidiousness (says the Mirror,) with which, in a place so narrow as Edinburgh, home productions are commonly received; which, if they are grave, are pronounced dull; if pathetic, are entitled unnatural; if ludicrous, are termed low. So just is this last observation, that I cannot forbear noticing, that when Rousseau published at Neufchatel some little compositions, they were not relished by his good provincial friends: a few years afterwards, they contributed to the literary pleasures of Paris. Not the qualities of his writings, but those of his readers, were altered.

BODY AND MIND.

Mr. Berrenger visited Johnson one day, and they talked of an evening society for conversation at a house in town, of which (says Mr. B.) we were all members, but of which Johnson said, "It will never do, sir. There is nothing served about there, neither tea, nor coffee, nor lemonade, nor any thing whatever; and depend upon it, sir, a man does not like to go to a place from whence he comes out exactly as he went in. Mr. B. endeavoured, for argument's sake, to maintain, that men of learning and talents might have very good intellectual society, without the aid of any little gratifications of the senses. Berrenger joined with Johnson, and said, that without these any meeting would be dull and insipid. He would therefore have all the slight refreshments; nay, it would not be amiss to have some cold meat and a bottle of wine upon a sideboard. "Sir, (said Johnson, with an air of triumph,) Mr. Berrenger knows the world. Every body loves to have good things furnished to them without any trouble. I told Mrs. Thrale once, that as she did not choose to have card tables, she should have a profusion of the best sweetmeats, and she would be sure to have company enough come to her."

PATIENCE.

A gentleman who introduced his brother to Dr. Johnson, was earnest to recommend him to the doctor's notice, which he did by saying, "When we have sat together some time, you'll find my brother grow very entertaining." "Sir (said Johnson) I can wait."

ENGRAVERS.

"It is no unusual thing," said the late excellent Cromek the engraver, "to illustrate the Holy Scriptures by plates originally engraved for the History of England;" and I have actually seen subjects designed by our celebrated artist Stothard, for Clarissa Harlowe and the Novelists' Magazine, converted with incredible dexterity by the booksellers into *scriptural* embellishments. One of these venders of family Bibles lately called on me, to consult me professionally about a folio engraving he brought with him: it represented M. Buffon, seated, contemplating various groups of animals that surrounded him. He merely wished, he said, to be informed whether, by unclothing the naturalist, and giving him rather a more resolute look, the plate could not, at a trifling expense, be made to pass for Daniel in the lion's den.

THE WORD ANECDOTE.

Anecdotes is an appellation given by scholars to MSS. which they discovered in libraries, and afterwards published. This term is strictly according to its Grecian derivation *anekdota*, i. e. things not yet published. Thus Cicero, as Moreri observes, gave the name of anecdote to a work which he had not yet published.

We have borrowed the use of this word, in its ordinary signification, from the French, who employ it for any interesting circumstance. In this sense Varillas published anecdotes of the family of the Medicis.

Johnson has defined the word, by saying, that "It is now used after the French for a *biographical incident*; a minute passage of *private life*." This confines its signification merely to *biography*; but anecdotes are susceptible of a more enlarged application. This word is more justly defined in the Cyclopædia, a "term which (now) denotes a relation of detached and interesting particulars." We give *anecdotes* of the art as well as the artist; of the war as well as the general; of the nation as well as of the monarch.



## LITERARY APOLOGIES.

One Albinus, in the preface to his Roman History, intercedes for pardon for his numerous blunders of phraseology; observing that they were the more excusable, as he had composed his history in the Greek language, with which he was not so familiar as his maternal tongue. Cato severely rallies him on this; and justly observes, that our Albinus had merited the pardon he solicits, if a decree of the senate had compelled him thus to have composed it, and provided he could not have obtained a dispensation.

Un auteur a genoux dans une humble preface  
Au lecteur qu'il ennuie a beau demander grace;  
Il ne gagnera rien sur ce juge irrité,  
Qui lui fait son procès de pleine autorité.

BOILEAU.

## HISTORY.

We read history, not to indulge the frivolous inquisitiveness of a dull antiquary, but to explore the causes of the miseries and prosperities of our country. We are more interested in the progress of the human mind, than in that of empires.

A Hearne would feel a frigid rapture, if he could discover the name of a Saxon monarch unrecorded in our annals; and of whom as little should remain, as of the doubtful bones of a Saxon dug out of a tumulus. Such are his anecdotes! A Hume is only interested with those characters who have exerted themselves in the cause of humanity, and with those incidents which have subverted or established the felicities of a people.

## HUME

Says, in the slight sketch he gives of his life: "My studious disposition, my sobriety, and my industry, gave my family a notion that the law was a proper profession for me; but I found an insurmountable aversion to every thing but the pursuits of philosophy, and general learning; and while they fancied I was poring upon Voet and Vinnius, Cicero and Virgil were the authors which I was secretly devouring."

## WIT,

Says Cowley, is not

To adorn, and gild each part;  
That shows more cost, than art.  
Jewels at nose and lips, but ill appear;  
Rather than all things wit, let none be there.  
Several lights will not be seen,  
If there be nothing else between;  
Men doubt, because they stand so thick i' th' sky,  
If those be stars, which paint the galaxy.

A London paper publishes the following verses addressed by Lord Byron to Mr. Thomas Moore, and adds "their authenticity is undoubted."

My boat is on the shore,  
And my bark is on the sea;  
But ere I go, Tom Moore,  
Here's a double health to thee.

Here's a sigh for those I love,  
And a smile for those I hate,  
And whatever sky's above,  
Here's a heart for any fate.

Though the ocean roar around me,  
It still shall bear me on;  
Though a desert should surround me,  
It hath springs that may be won.

Were it the last drop in the well,  
As I gasped on the brink,  
Ere my fainting spirits fell,  
'Tis to thee that I would drink.

In that water, as this wine,  
The libation I would pour,  
Should be—peace to thee and thine,  
And a health to thee, Tom Moore.

*On the pleasures of Industry and Contentment.*

From Hymns on Sunday Schools, London, 1812.

Some think it a hardship to work for their bread,  
Although for our good it was meant;  
But those that don't work, have no right to be fed,  
And the idle are never content.

An honest employment brings pleasure and gain,  
And makes us our troubles forget;  
For those that work hard, have no time to complain,  
And 'tis better to labour than fret.

E'en if we had riches, they could not procure  
A happy and peaceable mind;  
Rich people have trouble, as well as the poor,  
Although of a different kind.

It signifies not what our stations have been,  
Nor whether we're little or great;  
For happiness lies in the *temper within*,  
And not in the outward estate.

We only need labour as hard as we can,  
For all that our bodies may need;  
Still doing our duty to God and to man,  
And we shall be happy indeed.

**Literature and Science.**

Compiled for the National Recorder.

A part of the 68th number of the Edinburgh Review has reached the United States. This part contains—Art. 1. Mitchell's Aristophanes.—2. Ireland.—3. Kater on Pendulums.—4. Quaker Poetry.—5. Horticulture.—6. French Novels.—7. State of Science in England and France.—8. Oxley's Tour in Botany Bay.



## ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS.

Some new discoveries of great interest and importance have been made in the Vatican Library, by M. Mai, the principal librarian.

In a Greek *palimpseste* manuscript, (where the first writing has been effaced in order to make the parchment serve a second time) containing the harangues of the orator Aristides, the learned librarian has succeeded in discovering a part of the extracts of Constantine Porphyrogenitus, belonging to the chapters of sentences, harangues, succession of kings, inventors of things, and sententious answers. As the Byzantine prince had made extracts from a multitude of historical and political works, which have been long lost to the world, this discovery has naturally promised an ample harvest of interesting gleanings. M. Mai announces that he has discovered parts of the lost books of Polybius, Diodorus Siculus, and Dion Cassius, and fragments of Aristotle, of Ephorus, of Timeus, of Hyperides, and of Demetrius Phalereus. The names of some other authors, from whom extracts have been made, are not given. There are also some fragments of the Byzantine writers, such as Eunapius, Menander of Byzantium, Priscus and Petrus Protector, historic authors of a very interesting period. Among the fragments of Polybius, there is one of the 39th book, in which he announces that the 40th and last was to treat of chronology.

In another *palimpseste*, M. Mai has found a political treaty posterior to the time of Cicero, in which that orator is quoted, with many other Greek and Latin authors.

M. Mai has further discovered several speeches of Aristides, seven books of the physician Oribarius, which will be of much value to the physical sciences, fragments of Philo, a copy of Verines, &c.

It has been also just announced, that in the MSS. of Herculaneum, lately unrolled, at Naples, some treatises of Epicurus have been discovered of more importance than any we are yet in possession of. In one of these MSS. there are quotations from a treatise on political economy, by Aristotle, very different from the work which we possess under that title.

M. Hase, professor of modern Greek to the school of oriental languages at Paris, who has just returned from a literary tour through Italy, has further increased the number of these discoveries. He has found in the Ambrosian Library at Milan, a com-

plete MS. of a Byzantine historian, George Acropolite, of whom we have hitherto had nothing but an extract.

Baron Niebuhr, Prussian ambassador to the Holy See, has again discovered and published several manuscript works hitherto unknown. They are chiefly fragments of Cicero's Orations, *Pro M. Fonteio* and *Pro C. Rabirio*; a fragment of the 91st book of Livy; and two works of Seneca. He has dedicated the publication to the pope, by whose favour he was enabled to discover these literary treasures in the library of the Vatican.

The abbé Amadeus Peyran, professor of oriental languages in the university of Turin, has discovered some fragments of Cicero in a manuscript from the monastery of St. Columban de Rabbio, a town on the Trebia, in the dominions of the king of Sardinia. This MS. presents important new readings of orations already known, and confirms the identity of several texts that have been tortured by indiscreet critics. It contains also fragments of the orations *Pro Scauro*, *Pro M. Tullio*, *In Clodium*, orations unfortunately lost.

A manuscript of Eutropius's Roman History, supposed to have been carried from Rome to Bamberg by the emperor Henry, the founder of the bishopric of that place, has been found in the Royal Library there by Mr. Jacks the librarian. It is more complete than any of the printed editions, and will probably furnish means for correcting many false readings.

Professor Goeller of Cologne, had previously discovered in the same library a MS. of Livy.

A manuscript of the eleventh century, containing illustrations of Juvenal, which was discovered about two years ago in the library of the convent of St. Gallen, by professor Cramer, is about to be committed to the press. A specimen was published by the professor on occasion of the king's birthday, under the title of *Specimen novæ Editionis scholasticæ Juvenalis*.

The French literati are occupied at this time in a work of some importance preparing translations of Plutarch, Sallust, Tacitus, Aristotle, Hippocrates, &c. from the Arabic MSS., into which language many or all the best Greek and Roman authors are known to have been translated.

The French ambassador at Constantinople, M. Giardin, lately sent to Paris



fifteen valuable MSS. in Arabic, from the Imperial Library there, among which are the complete works of Plutarch and Herodotus. [Edinb. Mag.

#### GALVANIC MAGNETISM.

In a notice of the proceedings of the Royal Society, published in the journals of the day, a brief account is given of sir Humphrey Davy's recent interesting electro-magnetic experiments. We have here to notice also an important result obtained by professor Oersted. He states that a plate of zinc (about three inches high, and four inches broad) placed in and by an arch of small wire, connected with a trough nearly fitting it, made of thin copper, and containing a mixture of one part of sulphuric acid, one part of nitric acid, and sixty parts of water, forms an apparatus, which, being suspended by a very small wire, (only sufficiently strong to bear its weight,) will, if a powerful magnet be presented to it, exhibit magnetic polarity—turning its corresponding pole to the pole of the magnet. The suspending wire is attached to the apparatus by a thread rising from one side of the trough to the wire, and descending to the other side of the trough; and the plate of zinc is kept from coming in contact with the copper case, by a piece of cork interposed on each side of the plate.

[Ib.

The valuable library of cardinal Fesch, having been purchased by Messrs. Sherwood, Neely and Jones, of Paternoster Row, and Mr. Booker, of Bond street, a catalogue of the same will shortly be submitted to the public, previously to the disposal of it by auction. [Ib.

In the press, and speedily will be published in octavo, volume first of the *Principles of Medicine*, written entirely on the plan of the Baconian philosophy; to prove that the only rational method of curing disease, is to induce by medicine an opposition or counteracting action, sufficiently powerful to expel the disorder; by R. D. Hamilton, medical practitioner. [Ib.

Mr. Brown read before the Linnæan Society of London, a memoir on a new species of plants discovered in 1818, by the late Dr. Joseph Arnold, in the island of Sumatra. It has been named *Rafflesia*, from sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, under whose auspices Dr. Arnold travelled.

This flower springs immediately from a horizontal root. The stem is covered with round, imbricated, flosel leaves, of a darkish brown colour, and not very unlike a cabbage. The size of this flower is surprisingly great. When fully expanded, its diameter is three feet, its weight is fifteen pounds, and its tube holds twelve pints.

Mr. Brown, in treating of the affinities of this singular plant, compares it principally to the *aristolochias* and *passifloras*. He has not undertaken to decide, however, to which of these two species it approaches the nearest. He suspects also that it is parasitic, upon the root which supports it; but to decide this question more fully further observation appears to be necessary.

The largest flowers that has hitherto been found is the purple flower of the *aristolochia cordifolia*. According to the measurement of Humboldt, its diameter is sometimes sixteen inches. Upon the borders of the river Magdalena children amuse themselves in covering their heads with it. [Ann. de Chim. 1820.

Mr. Morrison is advancing with his Chinese Dictionary. The second part of this important work was begun in April, 1811. It will contain 1000 pages in 4to. and more than 12,000 Chinese characters, explained by numerous examples. In the month of April, 1817, they had finished 600 pages, comprising nearly 8000 characters. The impression of all the volumes will require at least eleven years.

A printing office was established in 1818 at Hobart's Town, in Van Diemen's Land, to which convicts are sent from England. The first book published there was a history of Michael Howe, a convict, who at the head of 28 brigands, disturbed the peace of the colony six years.

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